Induction of Private Sector Licences in Competition with DOT

2161. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any study as to the effect of its proposed programme of induction of private sector Licences in competition with DOT on the overall economy of Telecom operations in the country, and if so, what have been the conclusion;

(b) whether the compulsion on prospective Licences to pay License fee and Corporate taxes and working within the DOT tariff ceiling not force them to restrict their operations in the larger cities and new growth centres and try to wean away the high call revenue generating subscribers of the DOT;

(c) whether this would affect adversely the economy of the DOT and will be forced to seek increases in tariff which will then be applicable to licences also;

(d) whether this would lead to significant increase in the bills of average subscribers; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(i) The prospective service provider will have to provide the basic telephone service covering the entire telecom service area, including rural areas. One of the conditions of the licence as to provide telephone on demand to any person who applies for it.

(ii) In case the licensee fails to deliver the service or any part thereof within the prescribed period, the Government has the power to impose liquidity damage charges and in bad cases to cancel the licence.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e): Does not arise.

Possession of Nuclear Bombs by Pakistan

2162. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Pak has 12 nuclear bombs" as reported in the Indian Express, dated 12th July, 1995; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the reaction of Government's in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item refers to the American research report "Risk Report", published by the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, which in its July-August 1995 issue, states that "Pakistan could have produced enough material for a dozen nuclear bombs, with each bomb using approximately 15 kilograms of highly enriched uranium".

Government is aware of Pakistan's clandestine weapons oriented nuclear programme. Government has also taken note of statements of Pakistani leaders confirming Pakistan's nuclear weapons capability. The security situation of India is constantly under review particularly in the light of developments in the neighbourhood. Government will take all necessary measures designed to cope with any threat that may be posed to the security of the nation.

Selection of SCs/STs and OBCs in Railways

2163. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a good number of vacancies in Group "D" posts